

that a large number of gates will be necessary including a large number of gate-keepers. To my mind that is not an objection at all. Your other objection is that if it is kept on both sides of the road the different commodities can be kept separately. I do not see any reason why that should not be the case if there are separating walls. I am afraid the convenience of the people using the road is the first consideration, whether any serious inconvenience is caused to the users of the market or not. I am afraid I cannot meet your wishes in that point, and the transfer of the market to one side of the road will have to be effected.

86. Needs of the Vilavankod taluk.

MR. R. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Member, Vilavankod taluk*) spoke first about the irrigational facilities in Vilavankod taluk. In the reply to the representation made on the subject at the previous session of the Assembly, the Dewan referred only to channel irrigation and said:

"You referred to the question of channel irrigation in the Vilavankod taluk from the Kodayar. This is a matter which requires very careful investigation and I daresay will be taken up when it is found that Kodayar is able to supply water to Vilavankod. As you know, the R. B. C. was abandoned some time ago as it was found that it was not worth constructing."

The inhabitants of Vilavankod were aware that it was not easy to get water through the R. B. C. but what they wanted was the construction of a dam at Chittar No. I and the diversion of water therefrom by channel irrigation. The point was not covered by the reply although, in the Statement of Action taken on the representations, it was stated as 'disposed of at the meeting.' Again the member said that he knew that the Chittar scheme had been investigated and reported on by the Chief Engineer and that the report had been under the consideration of the Government. But, subsequently, it was rumoured that the Government decided to register the Chittar catchment area. Until expert opinion was obtained as to the feasibility of the Chittar scheme, it was not advisable to register the catchment area; and the scheme itself should be undertaken soon. He was given to understand that the Chief Engineer had no objection to the registry of land 20 feet above the catchment area. But the clearing of the area for purposes of cultivation would cause silting up of the Chittar by the gradual passage of soil from the cultivated area and that would prove a source of trouble if the Chittar scheme fructified. In the circumstances, the member prayed that no portion of the catchment area should be registered.

Incidentally, he also prayed that no portion of the Kalial forests should be registered, since registry would cause scarcity of water in the Vilavankod taluk. But if the Government decided to register the lands at any time, they should be registered only in the names of the inhabitants of the Vilavankod taluk and nobody else. If the Government were bent upon registering land in the locality, an extent of about 4,000 acres of land adjoining the Chittar catchment area was available for registry and that area might be assigned. He then read out the following three resolutions passed at a public meeting held at Kuzhitturai on the 24th Makaram 1102:—

"(1) That till the Government came to a definite decision as to the Chittar scheme, now under consideration, no land which may be useful for the purpose should be registered.

(2) That, in view to meet the demands of the ever-increasing population of the Vilavankod taluk, the *pudural* lands available in the taluk should be assigned to the inhabitants of the taluk or to other subjects of the State and that no land should be assigned to foreigners.

(3) That the Chittar scheme now under consideration should be put in hand soon in view to facilitate channel irrigation."

The member next said that the tanks included in the minor irrigation works of the taluk were silted up and breaches had occurred to many of them during the floods of 1101. The damages should be promptly repaired. The Chittar and Vialiattu mukham schemes should be investigated as early as possible. Besides, the question of connecting Mr. Horsley's Pirichani reservoir at the upper reaches of the Pandiyan *kal* with the Pechippara dam to improve the salt factories should also be investigated.

The member's next request was for the opening of a dispensary at Putukada or Tengapattanam for the use of the southern *pakuthies* of the Vilavankod taluk. The Inspecting Medical Officer was convinced of the necessity for a hospital at Putukada. As for a building for housing the hospital, the member suggested that the vacant Customs House at the place might be utilised for the purpose.

The member conveyed the thanks of the inhabitants of Vilavankod for sanctioning the appointment of a midwife in the Arumana Dispensary.

The need for a hospital at Kuzhitturai had been urged upon the Government for a long time past. In reply to the representation made on the same subject at the previous session, the Dewan replied :

"The Government agreed with the Administrative Board, Medical Services, in considering the present condition of medical relief in the Vilavankod taluk is adequate in view of the fact that there are two Government dispensaries, one at Arumana and another at Kulasekharam, and a grant-in-aid hospital at Martandam."

That view was not right. Vilavankod being an extensive taluk with a population of more than a lakh, the three hospitals and dispensaries were not adequate. Further, in the Mission hospital at Martandam, there was no duly qualified doctor. If the Government could not open another hospital, the Mission authorities might be asked, as one of the conditions for the award of grant-in-aid that a graduate in medicine should be appointed as the doctor there. The point had been brought to the notice of the Government once before ; and although the Government promised to look into the matter, there was no effect. If the Mission authorities refused to appoint a qualified doctor, the local Municipal Council or a duly qualified medical practitioner possessing a European or Indian diploma might be asked to open a hospital with the aid of a grant from the Government. The member invited also a personal inspection of the place by the Dewan.

Although the levy of toll in all evening markets had been stopped, it was being levied in the evening market at Padannalummud which was held on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The levy should be stopped.

Prior to the 15th Meenam 1094, the Metukummel *pakuthi* was included in the jurisdiction of the Sub-Registrar, Munchira, and from that date till the 1st Vrischikam 1102 in the jurisdiction of the Sub-Registrar, Parassala. That was a convenient arrangement for the local people. But from the latter date, the *pakuthi* was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Sub-Registrar, Kollenkod, which was 8 miles away from the eastern portions of the Metukummel *pakuthi*. Many documents had to be registered as a result of the Nayar Regulation. The member therefore prayed that the original arrangement should be restored or that the existing office of the Kollenkod Sub-Registrar should be removed to a more central place.

As a result of the representation made at the 15th session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, for a road from Padannalummud passing through Madichal, Marayapuram and Kunnattur to join the Kuzhittura-Pattanam road, the Government had promised that, if a ryots' road were constructed, it would be taken over for departmental maintenance after the construction of the necessary culverts. But the promise had not been fulfilled. It should be done without further delay. Similarly, the Kuzhitturai-Madichal road should also be taken over for departmental maintenance.

Of the total length of the pathway leading from Kaliakkavila to Andukod, a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles had been rendered fit for cart traffic by the local people. The road was very useful for transport of commodities to the Kaliakkavila market. The whole length of the road should therefore be rendered fit for cart traffic.

The village road, about 4 miles in length, from Arumana to Panachimud should also be converted into a cart road. For want of such a road, the carriages starting from Arumana and other places had to be taken along a circuitous path 10 miles long to reach Panachimud. Part of it was already fit for cart traffic. The rest of the village road in question should be converted into a cart road.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Narayana Pillai, I have some faint recollection of your having spoken to me of a hospital at Kuzhitturai or of somebody else having spoken to me of it. I have a slightly more clear recollection of having seen papers or reports or recommendations saying that a hospital at Kuzhitturai is not necessary. I am not quite sure what exactly all this means. Next time I go to Kuzhitturai I shall make enquiries about it.

The member said that it would be enough if the Government ask some officer, now present, who had worked there.

DEWAN : That is second-hand information. I will myself enquire about it.

Another matter that you referred to was the Chittar scheme. I have never heard of any Chittar scheme in my life.

The member said that the scheme had been spoken of in the last session.

DEWAN : I find that that scheme had been abandoned.

The member said that the abandoned scheme was the Vannanpara scheme.

DEWAN : Anyway I do not know anything about it at present. You also said that land had been given away or granted. I have not seen any recommendation for the sale or grant of land anywhere there.

The member gave the Survey Nos. of the lands proposed to be granted and referred to them as the catchment area of the Chittar.

DEWAN : I find you have heard a lot more than I have. Anyhow, I shall enquire about it, and if there is any irrigation scheme, I shall ask the Chief Engineer to let me have all the available information on the matter.

As regards your other points, they will be taken up in due course and Government will try to dispose of them during the year.

87. Needs of the Vilavankod taluk.

MR. MUHAMMAD HANEEF (*Member, Municipal Council, Kuzhitturai*) represented that the Ashtami festival day in the Tirumala temple in the month of Vrischikam and the Meena-Bharani festival day in the Bhagavati temple at Kollenkod were two important Hindu festivals, which many Hindu pilgrims of South Travancore attended. On the above days it was very inconvenient for the officers and the clients to attend offices and courts punctually. Less important festival days in other taluks had been declared local holidays. The two festival days mentioned above should be declared as local public holidays throughout the Vilavankod taluk.

The water supply during the hot season in markets other than those under the control of the Municipal Council was not adequate. The Government grant for the purpose was too small and the amount was not properly utilised. Additional amounts as in the case of Municipal markets should be sanctioned and arrangements should be made for spending the whole amounts for the purpose.

The lane between Mangattukadavu and Parthivapuram temple was in a low level and subject to submersion during rainy season when the Kuzhitturai river would be in floods. Its level should be raised and it should be converted into a road. He knew that the matter was under reference to the Chief Engineer but he wanted the matter to be expedited. The above work would render communication between the two chief trade centres of Kaliakkavila and Tengapattanam easier.

In regard to the establishment of a hospital at Kuzhitturai, the Government's reply to the representation made at the previous session on the subject was that the condition of medical relief in the taluk was adequate and there was no necessity for a Government hospital at Kuzhitturai. The Mission hospital in the locality was of no use to the comparatively poor people, because medicines could not be had free from them as from Government hospitals. If a Government hospital could not be opened, the grant to the Mission hospital should be increased in view to enable the authorities to dispense medicines free.

The Kuzhitturai river was subject to floods more than once every year, and the people living on the banks of the river at Kuzhitturai and other neighbouring places were suffering considerable losses. It took about seven hours for the water to flow from Kulasekharam to Kuzhitturai. If only previous information about impending floods be given to the people, they could make arrangements to prevent loss of life and property. In order to do that, telephone communication should be opened between the Public Works Department Section Offices at Kulasekharam and